



# CLAYTONIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Autumn 1998

Vol. 19, No. 3



## From the President's Desk

Thank you for making this an enjoyable year for me as President; and now, let us welcome Stephen Marak and John Simpson as our next President and President-elect. The nominating committee (Carl Hunter, Lana Ewing, and Lois Wilson) submits the following slate of officers to be voted on at the Fall meeting: Robert Wright, one of ANPS original founders, (Vice-president), Jason Anders (Treasurer), Ron Doran (Editor of the Claytonia), and Carl Hunter (Arkansas Conservation Coalition Representative). Of course, nominations will be taken from the floor.

Please bring lots of items for the auction and bring seeds for distribution during the seed exchange.

If you want to buy either a hand lens or "Keys to the Flora of Arkansas", a few will be available at the meeting and at cost.

New members, we welcome you and hope to see you in Clarksville and/or on field trips.

As I think of things done and things yet to do, three items are foremost in my mind. First, please consider pursuing the monitoring of all our fifty four Natural Areas (in conjunction with ANHC). The Nature Conservancy has also invited us to assist them by helping to monitor their "...rare and threatened communities..". What an opportunity for us to see the areas and obviously our efforts have value to those organizations. Also, I would hope that ANPS will continue to encourage the publishing of a flora for Arkansas.

At Mt. View, you voted for ANPS to be a repository for funds for this purpose. What better use of "conservation funds" than to provide "seed money" for this purpose if we were given the opportunity? In addition, please consider financing the design and publication of a first-class, color brochure for promotion of ANPS and its purposes.

See you in Clarksville.

Don Crank



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## FALL MEETING

WHEN: SEPT. 25, 26, 27

WHERE: University of the Ozarks, Clarksville

MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS SOON!

## **FALL MEETING**

### **University of the Ozarks**

### **Clarksville**

#### **Directions to campus**

Take Hiway 103 (Rogers Avenue, same street Comfort and Best Western are on) from I-40 to Cherry Street (the first street past the Main St. stoplight.) Turn left. Go about 6 blocks and turn right onto College. When you reach the University, you will see public parking lots on the right. We will have signs indicating where the meetings are. See campus map on page 3.

#### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Registration  
Baldor Auditorium in the Boreham Business Building

6:30 p.m. auction - Carl Amason  
auctioneer extraordinaire!  
Executive Board Meeting following.

#### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

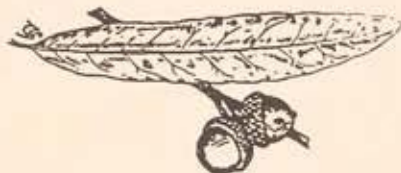
8:30 MORNING FIELD TRIPS  
Led by Gary Tucker and Gene Leeds

1:30 AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS

7:00 p.m. - Business meeting.  
( Includes election of officers.)  
Program section  
Carl Hunter - short (10-15 minutes)  
Janet Carson (main speaker)

#### **Sunday, September 27**

Everyone has been invited to Mary Ann King's place in London.  
Time to be announced.



#### **Accommodations**

The Comfort Inn has given us a rate of 2 people for \$40.00 plus tax or a room with 2 double beds and up to 4 people for \$45.00 plus tax. They will hold rooms until 9/15. 1167 S. Rogers Avenue, Clarksville, AR 72380, phone 501-754-3000.

Please call this number and not the toll free number to guarantee the special ANPS rate. Free continental breakfast, non-smoking rooms available, ground level and 2nd floor rooms available. Exit 58 north from I-40. Fax number 501-754-4131, check in 3 p.m., check out 11 am."

Best Western, also on Rogers Avenue, near the Comfort Inn. Exit 58 north from I-40. P.O. Box 146, Clarksville, AR, 72830. \$49.00 plus tax.

Reservations 1-800-780-7234 or 1-800-528-2222 hearing impaired or 501-754-7900 direct. Check in 6 p.m., check out 12 noon.

Super 8, also on Rogers Avenue. Exit 58 from I-40. 1238 Rogers Avenue, Clarksville, AR 72830. Reservations 1-800-800-8000 nationally or 501-754-8800 direct. Check in 11 am, check out 11 am. Rooms for 2 adults from \$46-52 plus tax per night.

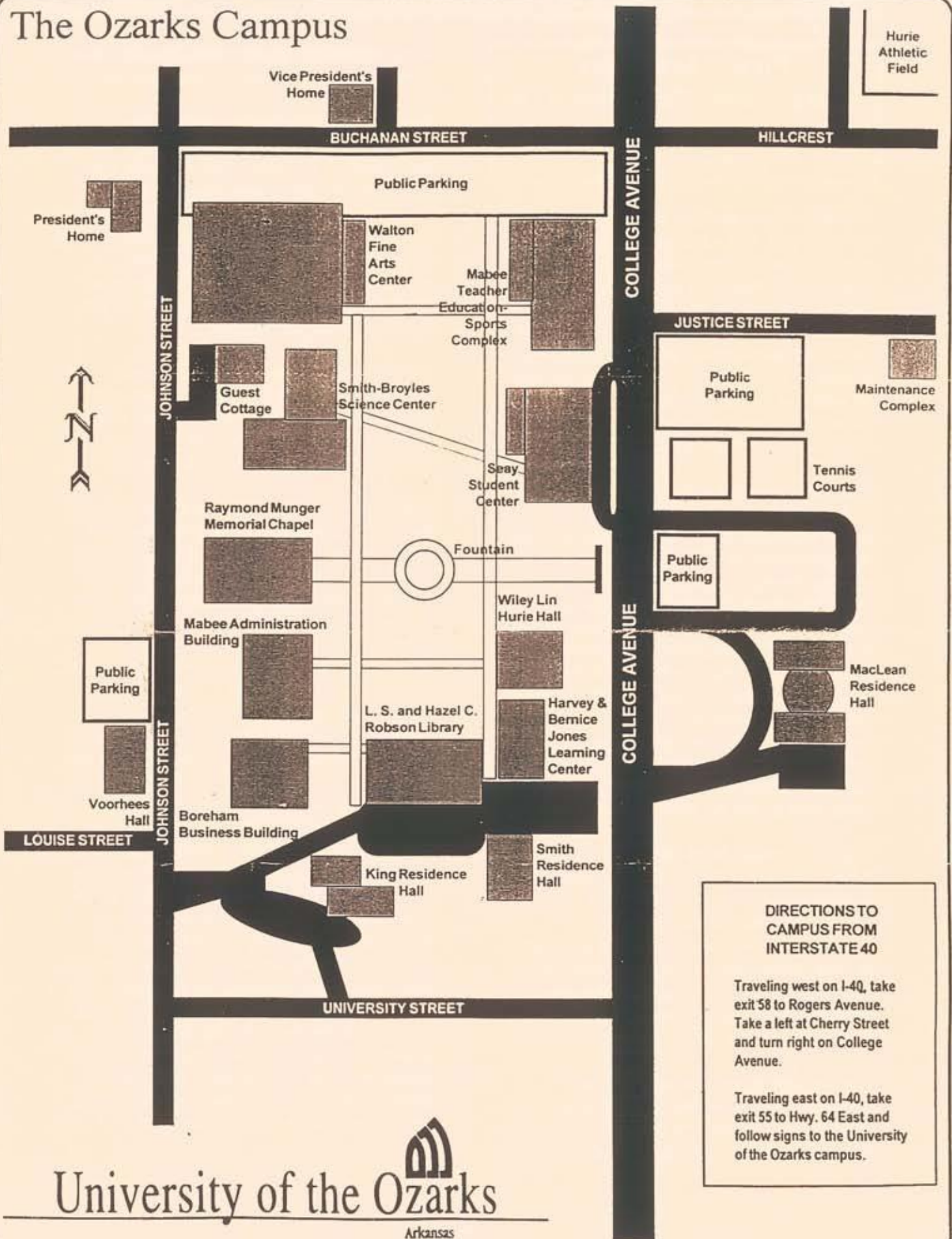
Economy Inn, I-40 & Exit 58 (Rogers Ave), Clarksville, AR 72830.  
501-754-2990.

Hampton Inn, I-40, Exit 55, Clarksville, AR 72830. 1-800-HAMPTON nationally or 501-754-4444 direct, rates \$49-55 plus tax for 2 adults.  
Check in 1 p.m., check out 11 am.

#### **FOOD**

Woodward's Family Restaurant, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner is next door to the Comfort Inn. Fast food chains such as Wendy's, McDonalds, KFC, etc. are within a few blocks of the motel."

# The Ozarks Campus



## DIRECTIONS TO CAMPUS FROM INTERSTATE 40

Traveling west on I-40, take exit 58 to Rogers Avenue. Take a left at Cherry Street and turn right on College Avenue.

Traveling east on I-40, take exit 55 to Hwy. 64 East and follow signs to the University of the Ozarks campus.

University of the Ozarks  
Arkansas

## First Arkansas Rare Plant Conference an Unqualified Success

by Wayne Owen

The first Arkansas Rare Plant Conference on the 11th and 12th of August was bigger, more fun, and more rewarding than anyone had hoped. Ninety-six people attended the two-day meeting in Hot Springs. They came from every corner of Arkansas and nearly all of our surrounding states. Hard-core botanists and wildflower gardeners sat side by side and learned more than they expected about the identification and status of rare plants in the Natural State.

The stated purposes of the conference were to improve the level of awareness about Arkansas' rare plants and to increase our knowledge of their distribution and ecology through involving the broadest cross-section of the botany community. We think we met our mark. In addition to illuminating new locations for several of the species that we reviewed (see Claytonia Summer '98), we learned something about the threats to some populations, the security of others, and how to recognize some of these unique plants so that when the next Rare Plant Conference rolls around more people will be able to contribute.

This information most directly benefits the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and federal agencies like the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service, but knowledge of the distribution and abundance of rare plants helps everyone interested in Arkansas botany. Of course the biggest benefactors of our successful effort are the rare plants of our state.

The first day of the Conference was consumed with a review of more than 140 rare plants. It was my distinct impression that people paid more attention when we

were discussing *Cypripedium* species than when we were discussing *Carex* species.

The second day of the conference was probably more broadly entertaining. In the morning, Dr. Doug Jeffries from the University of the Ozarks lead a very stimulating discussion on Arkansas lichens. He was followed by an in-depth presentation on the mosses and liverworts of the southeast by Dr. Dan Marsh of Henderson State College and Dr. Frank Bowers of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

All this talk about "lower life-forms" generated considerable conversation and comment and all in attendance came away with a better appreciation for the more delicate members of the plant kingdom.

The second day was also a day to go out into the field to see some of the plants we had talked about. Trips were made to Meyers Creek to see ferns and orchids, Rainy and Fiddler Creeks to see the endangered *Ptilimnium nodosum* (*harperella*) and the rare *Xyris difformis* var. *difformis*, and Dripping Springs to revel in the ferns and bryophytes. The field trips were fun for all and had the added benefit that everyone learned and saw new things. Life doesn't get any better than that.

What is the future of the Arkansas Rare Plant Conference? We are currently in the process of writing a formal report for state and federal land management agencies to help them better manage the rare plant resources in Arkansas. The Conference Evaluations were very helpful and have given us many good ideas for improving the next event (like having it in a bigger room and showing pictures of the habitat of each of the rare plants). At this time, we are planning the Second Arkansas Rare Plant Conference for late winter, early spring 2000. Mark your calendars now and keep your eyes peeled for the rare stuff.

## ANPS Fall Field Trips

**Saturday, October 10**

Fall wildflower drive in the Ouachitas.  
Meeting place will be the Harvest Foodstore  
at Malvern and Grand in Hot Springs at 8:00  
AM.

**Saturday, October 24**

### Calion

Carl Amason will be hosting a trip at his  
home. (870) 748-2362  
Time: 9:00 a.m.

**Directions:** Those coming from the north,  
Follow US 167 when the concrete of the  
river bridge (Ouachita River) changes to  
blacktop go 0.9 mile to the intersection of  
Calion's Main Street which does not go  
across 167, turn left and then go 0.5 mile  
cross the old railroad dump, turn right onto  
Hoover Street between two cyclone fences,  
go one block, STOP sign, turn right on Ward  
Street which curves, crosses the end of  
Calion Lake, go 0.5 mile when Ward  
becomes county road, then 0.8 mile to  
Carl's place on the right. There are no  
house on the left but three houses on the  
right. From El Dorado, go 2.5 miles past  
AR 335 to Calion's Main Street. There is a  
small closed brick building on the north side  
of the intersection, only woods on south side

ANPS regional chapters also schedule  
their own field trips and activities.  
Please contact the chapter presidents for  
information concerning their activities:



## Nature Conservancy Field Trips

### Special Note

*All Nature Conservancy field trips require  
advance registration. See registration form  
on page 9.*

**Fall Canoe on the Bayou.**

**Saturday, October 3**

Benson Creek Natural Area

Gently float through tupelo and cypress  
trees in the braided wetland channels of  
Bayou De View located near Brinkly in  
Monroe County.

Bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided.

**Leader:** Leslee Spraggins

**Time:** 8:00 am - 2:00 p.m.

**Meeting place:** meet at Arkansas Field  
Office and carpool to the sight.

**Cost:** \$20.00/person (limit 14)

**Fall in the Ozarks**

Newton County

**Saturday, October 17**

Ozark Ecotours is a job creation program of  
the Newton County Resource Council, a non-  
profit community development corporation  
offering responsible travel that promotes  
appreciation and protection of the natural  
resources and rich cultural heritage of the  
county, as a special treat for Conservancy  
members, three hikes led by local guides  
are being offered featuring:

- 1) Archeological elements and points of  
interest (easy to moderate)
- 2) An historical and cultural perspective of  
the county (easy to moderate)
- 3) Unique aspects of the natural community  
(moderate)

**Leader:** Ozark Ecotours and Page Shurgar

**Time:** 9:00- afternoon

**Meeting place:** Newton County Courthouse  
in Jasper.

Registrants will be sent a map (indicate on  
the registration form if you would like to  
carpool from Little Rock) [cont. next page]

Cost: \$15.00/person. Limit 12 persons per group. Please rank (1-30 on the registration form which outing you would prefer. (Note: we'll try to give everyone their first pick -- so get your forms in early!)



**Mushrooming in the Ozarks**  
 Alum Cove, Ozark National Forest  
**Saturday, November 14**

Alum Cove is an area of special geological interest with unusual rock formations including a "Natural Bridge" that early settlers used as a wagon trail. For naturalist, Alum Cove has a large variety of tree species as well as mushrooms. Join us for a day of mushrooming to look for Honey mushrooms, Oyster mushrooms and a variety of others.

Bring a sack lunch. We will eat overlooking the scenic Buffalo River.

**Leader:** Jay Justice, President of the Arkansas Mycological Society.

**Meeting place:** Alum Cove. Registrants will be sent a map to the meeting place.

**Time:** 10:00 am - 2:00 p.m.

**Driving time** from Little Rock 2 and 1/2 hours. (indicate on registration form if you would like to carpool from Little Rock)

## NATURE CONSERVANCY WORK PARTIES

Please contact Conservancy Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator Page Shurgar at the Arkansas Field Office (501) 663-6699 ext .61 or pshurgar@tnc.org if you plan to attend the work parties or need directions to the site. Your help is needed!!!!!!

### TERRE NOIRE

**September 26**

**November 7**

**December 5**

We will be establishing erosion barriers, removing cedars, and reseeding washed out areas at both Terre Noire and International Paper Blackland Prairie.

**Place:** Terre Noire Natural Area near Arkadelphia, Clark County

**Time:** 9:00-11:00 am

**Leaders:** Kathryn Burchfield and Page Shurgar.

### BAKER PRAIRIE

**October 3**

**November 7**

This fall at Baker Prairie volunteer efforts will be concentrating on fencerow removal, erosion control, seep collection and planting

**Place:** Baker Prairie Natural Area in Harrison, Boone County.

**Time:** 9:00- 11:00 am

**Leader:** Cheryl Satterfield





**In Appreciation of  
*Vaccinium staminium*  
by Carl Amason**

Among the many pleasant, lovely or beautiful flowering plants that grow naturally in Arkansas, the *Vaccinium staminium* is one of the most distinct. It is found almost statewide except on the Grand Prairie and Mississippi Delta Regions and is well known to those who appreciate the native plants.

First the blooms are considered. It is considered now to be a *Vaccinium* species but its white flowers are so star shaped with its radiating petals, not united petals of urn shaped flowers that is common to the other species of Arkansas *Vaccinium* natives. They have been aptly described as resembling -- with imagination of course, a ballerina's tutu, the short flaring skirt that ballet dancers wear when performing. And this distinction makes it different to the point that early botanists frequently considered it to be a different genus. The flowers are born in early spring in small clusters and it seems that most often they occur just as the fresh green leaves are

developing, giving a rather pretty spring show when so many other flowers are coming into early spring flowering. The stamen and pistil are exerted beyond the corolla (petals), again with vivid imagination, like the legs of a ballerina. These flowers develop into berries.

Second: The fruits are large, for a *Vaccinium*, greenish round berries that really develop poor color -- to greenish purplish, that dangle on long peduncles, but are really not tasty for human beings but are eagerly eaten by birds and other wildlife, hence some local names of deerberry, gooseberry, and perhaps other "animal berry" that is not wide spread in usage.

Third: The leaves are light but bright green when developing but grows into light but dullish leaves that are simple, entire, perhaps shiny, to over two inches long but usually from one to two inches long and about 1/2 inch wide. The leaves develop no color for the autumn season in spite of being deciduous. At this time the berries are long gone.

Fourth: The shrub is stoloniferous, usually making a compact cluster of irregularly branched bushes that are between two and three feet tall. It is well behaved in cultivation, but for some reason, people don't consider it a worthy garden addition as it should be grown more often, especially in a woodland garden where it prospers in light shade and sandy acid soils. When established, it needs no additional watering and fertilizer. It can grow in quite dry areas to moist slopes but it must be well drained.

For those who like to make arrangements of native plants in bloom, the branches last well and really can stump and confuse the ordinary people who do not realize what a showy plant they have been missing. And in winter the bare limbs have an Oriental splendor. So it is a plant for all seasons.

## OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

Here is what we need at Arkansas Natural Heritage in order to process "special areas" which you want us and **ANPS** to know about:

**LOCATION:** County, nearest town, township, range and section (if you know it), very specific directions to the area. Also a map would be nice but is not necessary.

**OWNERSHIP:** Do you know who owns it? If so who?

**KIND OF SITE:** Swamp, forest, prairie, old field, spring, glade, etc. Be as specific as your knowledge allows.

**WHY IS THE AREA SPECIAL:** Does it contain rare plants, unusual habitat or community, an interesting mix of plants, a diversity of natural features that might make it useful as an outdoor study area? Something else?

**PARKING:** Is there room for a school bus to park? Turn around?

Please send your information to:

John Logan  
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission  
1500 Tower Building  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201



## Fourth Central South Native Plant Conference

Friday, October 23, and 24th are the dates for this native plant conference to be held this year in Birmingham, Alabama. The conference is designed to foster awareness and appreciation of plants native to the Southeast. Registration fee is \$65 if paid by October 10. \$80 after that date. For further information contact Mary Joe Modica, University of Alabama Arboretum, Tuscaloosa, Alabama at 1-888-349-1815.



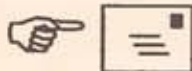
## Editor's End Note

Thanks to all of you who sent in information or articles for this issue of your newsletter. Keep them coming!!! I can't promise you that they will get in the next issue, but they will appear as soon as we have space. Chapters, are you still out there? Other members would like to hear what is happening in your parts of the state.

Have you noticed that after a hot and dry summer many of our imported plants have been stressed to their limit but most of the natives are "hanging in there" and some of them have even managed a spectacular display despite September temperatures in the 100+ range. I have even found a couple of composites in my upper field that are new to me.

Thanks again for your articles. See you at the fall meeting!





Please check your mailing label!  
If your mailing label has a 97 or  
earlier it is time to renew!  
Life members will have an LF

Please fill in the information form on the  
bottom of page 9 and send with your renewals,  
applications for membership, changes of name,  
address, e-mail address or telephone numbers  
to the address given on the form: [Not to the  
editor.]

## 1997/98 ANPS OFFICERS

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*The purpose of the  
Arkansas Native Plant Society  
is to promote the preservation, conservation, and study of the wild plants and vegetation  
of Arkansas, the education of the public to the value of the native flora and its habitat,  
and the publication of related information.*

### Claytonia

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